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# Leahy Asks Moynihan To Rethink Resignation

Associated Press

Sen. Patrick J. Leahy (D-Vt.) said yesterday he has asked Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) to reconsider his decision to resign as vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Moynihan resigned over the weekend in protest against what he said was CIA failure to inform the committee fully about its role in the mining of Nicaraguan harbors.

The Intelligence Oversight Act, passed in 1980, requires the CIA to keep congressional intelligence panels "fully and currently informed of all intelligence activities" being engaged in by the United States, "including any significant anticipated activities."

Moynihan in announcing his resignation said he will remain a member of the committee until the end of the year, when he will have completed the maximum of eight years' service established by the panel's rules.

Leahy said he telephoned Moynihan Sunday and asked him to reconsider his decision. Moynihan could not be reached for comment.

Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), the committee chairman, who wrote a strong letter to CIA Director William J. Casey last week complaining of not being briefed about the mining, said he regretted Moynihan's decision.

"I understand his bitterness," Leahy said of Moynihan. "I think he was not adequately briefed on the issue. But I hope that after the recess he will reconsider."



SEN. PATRICK J. LEAHY  
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The CIA, meanwhile, issued a statement asserting that both Casey and his staff have complied with "the spirit and the letter of the Intelligence Oversight Act" on keeping oversight committees "fully informed" of activities.

The CIA said Casey or the CIA's deputy director have given the two committees 30 briefings on Central America from December, 1981, through this March and other CIA officials have given 22 similar briefings since last September. Since the first of the year, the CIA said, "The subject of mining of Nicaraguan ports has been discussed with either members or staffers of the committees and other members of the Congress 11 times."